

District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers



This November 2012 Newsletter highlights many upcoming activities and holiday celebrations. So please mark your calendars and help spread the word! Thank You.

City Budget – We approved a balanced budget and tax rate on September 18th. The City's property tax rate for operating expenses did not change; however, residents will see a 1.1 percent overall rate increase because of debt service on voter-approved bonds. The new rate is \$4.33 for each \$1,000 of assessed value. For example, if you own a \$150,000 home with a \$50,000 homestead exemption, City taxes would be \$433, about \$7 more than last year. The City of Fort Lauderdale has the third lowest operating millage rate among Florida's 25 largest cities.

Abandoned Properties – On October 2nd, the City Commission passed the Vacant and Abandoned Property Registration Ordinance, effective January 1, 2013. The ordinance requires institutions holding mortgages in default, on properties that have become abandoned, to register these properties with the City. The staff contact for this program is Jeri Pryor, Project Manager for the Vacant Property Registration Program. Please contact Ms. Pryor at JPryor@fortlauderdale.gov or 954-828-4775 if you have questions or comments. Proper notice and public outreach is being planned for the next few months.

The District IV Transportation Workshop is set for Thursday, November 1st, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM at the Croissant Park Community Center, 245 W Park Drive. The City is hosting four of these workshops to receive public input on better ways to facilitate travel around the City without using a car. A draft multi-modal connectivity map will serve as the basis for the discussion. Please offer your input and feedback on potential locations (including neighborhoods) for bike paths, greenways, wider sidewalks, and transit connections. A priority list of projects and a funding plan will then be prepared for Commission consideration. Feel free to attend any or all of these workshops.

The Neighbor Summit will be held on Saturday, November 10th. The Summit is the culmination of the City's visioning initiative. It will be held from 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM at the War Memorial Auditorium. Key findings of the visioning outreach will be reviewed and neighbors will have the opportunity to vote on ideas submitted for the shaping of Fort Lauderdale 2035. Voting results will be displayed real-time, and top-ranked issues will be discussed to guide the City's Vision Statement. Your participation is welcome and encouraged!

Million Hour Volunteer Challenge – Broward League of Cities President and City Commissioner Bobby DuBose has issued the League's first-ever Million Hour Volunteer Challenge to the residents of Broward County. Please log your volunteer hours by May 31, 2013, at <http://www.browardleague.org/volunteerchallenge/#.UE5V8rJmTkc>.

The 28th Annual Fort Lauderdale Christmas Pageant at First Baptist Church – Tickets are now on sale for shows running November 30th - December 16th! Here is the link: <http://ChristmasTickets.com> or call 1-888-952-4806.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR –

- **Saturday, October 27** – Trick-or-Treat on Second Street and Riverwalk Howl-O-Ween Kid and Pet Parade. This free event is set for 1:00 - 4:00 PM at Esplanade Park, 400 SE 2nd Street. Call 954-828-5363 for details.
- **Monday, October 29** – District IV Forum on E-Government and how the City's IT Department can use technology better for dealings with the City. The event is from 6:00 - 8:00 PM in First Floor Chambers at City Hall.
- **Friday, November 9** – Riverwalk Get Downtown will be held from 5:00 – 8:00 PM in the courtyard plaza at 333 E Las Olas. For tickets, please contact Caitlin@GoRiverwalk.com or 954-468-1541 ext. 203.
- **Friday, November 16** – 5th Annual Light Up Lauderdale, Esplanade Park, 400 SE 2nd Street, 5:00 – 9:00 PM.
- **Wednesday, November 21** – Light Up the Beach! The City's Holiday Lighting Ceremony will be held at 6:30 PM at A1A and E Las Olas, followed by a Holiday Concert at 7:00 PM at DC Alexander Park, 501 Seabreeze Boulevard.
- **Tuesday, November 27** – **Golden Anniversary of Christmas on Las Olas** on E Las Olas from SE 6th to SE 11th avenues. See <https://www.facebook.com/ChristmasOnLasOlas>.
- **Sunday, December 2** – Winterfest Family Fun Day will be on the Riverside Hotel Lawn, 620 E Las Olas, from Noon to 4:00 PM. The Boat Parade is set for Saturday, December 15th. See <http://www.winterfestparade.com>.

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